

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action mailed on March 13, 2008.

Claims 53-74 are currently pending in this application, with claims 53 and 66 being independent.

No new matter has been added.

Reexamination in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections

While not conceding the propriety of this rejection and in order to advance the prosecution of the above-identified application, claims 37-43 have been canceled.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly added claims

Claims 53-65 - Claims 54-65 are dependent upon claim 53. Claim 53 is drawn to a method of drafting a bill of lading, said method comprising the steps of:

outputting an order for a delivery of cargo from said cargo shipping instruction site, said order including shipping instruction information;

acquiring outgoing vessel schedule information from a physical distribution trader site; and

incorporating said shipping instruction information and said outgoing vessel schedule information into the bill of lading.

Claims 66-74 - Claims 67-74 are dependent upon claim 66. Claim 66 is drawn to an apparatus for making a draft for a bill of lading, said apparatus comprising:

a cargo shipping instruction site adapted to output an order for a delivery of cargo, said order including shipping instruction information;

a physical distribution trader site adapted to output outgoing vessel schedule information, said shipping instruction information and said outgoing vessel schedule information being incorporated into the bill of lading; and

a communication network line adapted to establish communication between said cargo shipping instruction site and said physical distribution trader site.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0101106, the publication document for the present application, provides in paragraph [0202] that:

[0202] In FIG. 28, the latest booking information (vessel schedule) is acquired from the physical distribution trader, and it is examined whether or not there is a shipping company having a service for the transportation route to be consigned in the booking information by reference to the shipping instruction information, the list of physical distribution traders and the like. As the vessel schedule, one stored in the database 81 as the latest information is ordinarily used. FIG. 29 and FIG. 30 show the contents of the vessel schedule.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0101106 provides in paragraph [0208] that:

[0208] The prepared draft is transmitted to the physical distribution trader, and the number of the bill of lading and the issuance date thereof are filled by the physical distribution trader after the cargo is confirmed to complete the final bill of lading (column {circle over (6)}). The number of the bill of lading and the bill of lading with the issuance date become effective, and have validity as a formal bill. As described above, almost all pieces of the information concerning the bill of lading are exchanged in processes of the exchange of information between the physical distribution trader and the portal site side, and then the draft of the bill of lading can relatively easily be prepared in real time by the filling of corresponding items in the exchange processes. Incidentally, a part of the information of the bill of lading can be utilized as the tracking information of the cargo, too.

However, the prior art cited in the rejection of the claims fail to disclose, teach, or suggest the incorporation of shipping instruction information and outgoing vessel schedule information into the bill of lading.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Official Notice

There is no concession as to the veracity of Official Notice, if taken in any Office Action.

An affidavit or document should be provided in support of any Official Notice taken. 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2), MPEP § 2144.03. See also, *Ex parte Natale*, 11 USPQ2d 1222, 1227-1228 (Bd.

Pat. App. & Int. 1989)(failure to provide any objective evidence to support the challenged use of Official Notice constitutes clear and reversible error).

Extensions of time

Please treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time.

Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge all required fees, fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17, or all required extension of time fees.

If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

Conclusion

This response is believed to be a complete response to the Office Action. Applicants reserve the right to set forth further arguments supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of the remarks is courteously solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753.

Dated: June 9, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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